

The Chatham Elections Newsletter



[Chatham County Elections](#)



(912) 201-4375



elections.chathamcountyga.gov

HIGHLIGHTS!

JustFOIA

Did you know we have a special portal for all Open Records Requests? Enter and track your request here:

chathamcountyga.justfoia.com/publicportal



SCAN ME

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APRIL



As the May 19, 2026, General Primary/Nonpartisan Election approaches, our office is preparing to ensure a secure, transparent, and accessible election for all voters. With candidate qualifying now complete and ballots being finalized, our team is focused on preparing polling locations, training poll workers, and providing voters with the information they need to participate confidently in the election process. Our sister office, Voter Registration, will begin mailing out absentee ballots on April 20. They are also preparing for Early Voting, which will begin April 27. Contact their office for more information:

CALL: (912) 790-1520 EMAIL: voter@chathamcounty.org
WEBSITE: voter.chathamcountyga.gov

Community Updates

Logic and Accuracy Testing

The Chatham County Board of Elections will conduct a public Logic and Accuracy Test on its voting system units at the Elections Annex located at 10 Mall Terrace. This test is open to the public and will begin on or after March 30, 2026, at 9:00 AM and will continue until completed. This test is to prepare and verify the accuracy of the Voting System for the General Primary/Nonpartisan Election to be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026. The timing of this testing is subject to when we receive the necessary data from the Secretary of State's office. Please contact us for updates.



Elections Events

MAR 22-25 GAVREO Conference

The **Georgia Association of Voter Registration and Election Officials** hosted its 7th Annual Training Conference March 22–25 in Athens. This year’s theme, “Dribble, Pass, Vote – Team Democracy Wins,” highlighted teamwork and professional development for election officials across the state. We are proud to share that two members of our office and one Board member attended this year’s conference: Brook Schreiner, James Farringer, and James Hall.

APR 13 Monthly Board Meeting

The Chatham County Board of Elections will hold its regular monthly meeting on **April 13th, 2026, at 3:30pm.** The meeting will be held at our elections office: 1117 Eisenhower Drive, Suite F, Savannah, GA.

MAY 19 General Primary/Nonpartisan Election

Election Day is May 19th, 2026
Voters across Chatham County will head to the polls for the General Primary/Nonpartisan Election.
Last Day to Register: 04/20/2026
Early Voting: 04/27/2026 – 05/15/2026

May 19, 2026 Election Updates

ELECTION QUALIFYING UPDATE (2026)

Election Qualifying Update (2026)

The regular qualifying period for the 2026 election cycle was held **March 2–6, 2026.** In Chatham County, a total of **17 candidates qualified for local offices:**

- 3 Republicans qualified for partisan primaries
- 3 Democrats qualified for partisan primaries
- 11 candidates qualified for nonpartisan offices

Patrick Farrell has qualified for another office and vacated his current position on the **County Commission (District 4).** An **additional qualifying period was held March 18–20, 2026,** to fill the unexpired term.

A total of **2 candidates** qualified for this office.

To view information on all candidates who qualified across Georgia, visit:

<https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/qualifying-candidate-information>

SPECIAL ELECTION

A special election will be held on **May 19, 2026,** alongside the General Primary/Nonpartisan Election, to **fill the unexpired term for Chatham County Commissioner, District 4.** The seat was vacated when the previous commissioner, Patrick Farrell, qualified for another office. The Chatham County Commissioners have appointed Shirley Sessions to serve until a candidate is elected and takes office. **Voters who reside within Commission District 4 will see this contest on their ballot and will elect a candidate to serve the remainder of the term.**



What to Expect on the Ballot



Partisan Contests

Federal (Party Primaries)

- U.S. Senate
- U.S. House of Representatives (District 1)

Statewide Offices (Party Primaries)

- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Secretary of State
- Attorney General
- Commissioner of Agriculture
- Commissioner of Insurance
- State School Superintendent
- Commissioner of Labor
- Public Service Commissioner (Districts 3, 5)
- Georgia State Senate seats (Districts 1, 2, 4)
- Georgia House of Representatives seats (Districts 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166)

Local Offices (Party Primaries)

- Board of Elections (2 Republican, 2 Democrat)

Nonpartisan Contests

These offices are not decided by party primaries and appear on your ballot alongside the May 19 partisan primaries:

Local Chatham County Offices

- Chatham County School Board President
- Chatham County School Board Districts 4, 5, 6, and 8
- Recorder’s Court Judge (two seats)
- County Commissioner District 4 (special election)

Judicial and Other Statewide Nonpartisan Races

Georgia’s nonpartisan elections often include judges whose terms expire in 2026 (such as Supreme Court and Court of Appeals seats). Those will also appear on the May 19 ballot concurrent with party primaries, but without party labels.

Partisan Ballot Questions

In addition to candidate contests, voters participating in party primaries on May 19, 2026, will see non-binding ballot questions specific to their selected party.

These questions are advisory only and do not directly change law.

Democratic Party Ballot Questions:

1. Should the State of Georgia raise the sales tax on everyday items like clothing, food and school supplies to pay for an income tax cut that would make millionaires and billionaires richer?
2. Is it ethical for political candidates who have used their public offices to enrich themselves and their families, or have had nearly a billion dollars of business dealings with the State of Georgia, to hold statewide office?

Republican Party Ballot Questions:

1. Should Georgia enact the strongest election integrity measures possible, including hand-marked paper ballots, fines for counties that do not maintain current voter rolls, and limits on no-excuse absentee voting?
2. Should Georgia prohibit judges from releasing defendants accused of serious crimes without secure bail?
3. Should Georgia extend the death penalty to include sexual crimes against children?
4. Should the United States Constitution be amended to limit the number of Supreme Court Justices to nine?
5. Should Georgia require public schools to make instructional materials and library content publicly accessible online?
6. Do you support policies aimed at making Georgia energy-independent through increased domestic energy production and reduced regulation?
7. Do you support banning cellphone use in Georgia public schools?
8. Should Georgia penalize law enforcement agencies that do not cooperate with federal immigration authorities in cases involving serious crimes?

Fun Fact!

Did you know that Georgia was the first state to lower the voting age to 18? In 1943, Georgia voters approved a constitutional amendment allowing 18-year-olds to vote, nearly three decades before the 26th Amendment made it the national standard in 1971.





Where can I vote?

Collocated Polls

You can check your Election Day polling location by visiting the State-run My Voter Page.

The following polls have been collocated:



MY VOTER PAGE

1-13 The Sanctuary will vote at:
1-14 St. Luke UMC (9114 Whitefield Ave)

2-04 Fellowship of Love will vote at:
2-03 WW Law (909 East Bolton St)

3-11 Southside Baptist Church will vote at:
3-09 ConneXion Church (5411 Skidaway Rd)

5-08 Southside Assembly of God will vote at:
5-11 Largo Tibet School (430 Tibet Ave)

8-17 Georgia Tech, Sav Campus will vote at:
8-18 Seventh-day Adventist (50 Godley Way)

Absentee Voting by Mail

Voters in Chatham County may request an absentee ballot for the May 19, 2026 General Primary/Nonpartisan Election.

Request Period: March 2 – May 8, 2026

How to Apply:

Mail, email, fax, online at securemyabsenteeballot.sos.ga.gov/s/, or in person at the Voter Registration Office

Ballot Mailing:

April 20 – May 8, 2026

For more information, contact the Chatham County Voter Registration Office at (912) 790-1520.

Early Voting Information

Dates: April 27 – May 15, 2026

Weekday Hours & Locations:

- VR Annex (1249 Eisenhower Dr): 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Mosquito Control (65 Billy B Hair Dr)
- Island Library (50 Johnny Mercer Blvd)
- Garden City Library (104 Sunshine Rd)
- Civic Center (301 W Oglethorpe Ave)
- Southwest Library (14097 Abercorn St)
- All locations above (except VR Annex) are open 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

Weekend Voting (9:00 AM – 5:00 PM):

- May 2 & May 9: VR Annex, Mosquito Control, Island Library
- May 3 & May 10: VR Annex only

Message from our Trainer

Ursula

I am happy to announce that we have started our Spring Training! **Everyone who works in our polls on Election Day must be trained before every election in accordance with Georgia law.** Our training sessions are packed with reminders of Georgia election code and everything workers need to help voters legally and securely vote in Chatham County. We have many knowledgeable and experienced long-time poll workers returning, and some new poll workers who will be working for the first time! They are very excited to join our team of highly skilled professionals helping voters this election season.

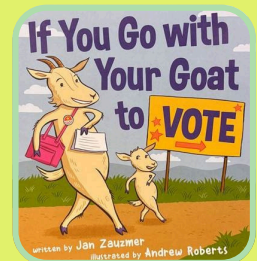
New! Starting with the May 19th election, we are implementing some Election Day procedure changes, including **new and improved election recap forms.** The new recap forms are the result of a collaboration by Georgia Secretary of State staff and County election poll workers. These forms are more intuitive and easier to complete correctly on Election Day. I am looking forward to sharing them with our poll managers and assistant managers.

I want to send a big thank you to all our poll workers! We could not have safe, secure, and accurate elections without your hard work and dedication!

- Ursula

RAAD Book Giveaway

Chatham County was one of several counties to participate in the ESS (Election Systems & Software) annual RAAD Book Giveaway, in honor of National Reading Month and Read Across America Day (RAAD). For RAAD



2026, the children's book *If You Go with Your Goat to Vote* by Jan Zauzmer and Andrew Roberts was given away, and Chatham was selected as a recipient of the book. To learn more about this wonderful initiative to inspire future voters, visit

<https://www.essvote.com/blog/inside-ess/inspire-future-voters-this-read-across-america-day-with-ess-annual-book-giveaway/>.